3572

REASONS,

To ſhew, that there is a great PROBABILITY of a

NAVIGABLE PASSAGE

TO THE

Weſtern American Ocean,

THROUGH

HUDSON's STREIGHTS,

and *CHESTERFIELD* INLET;

FROM THE

OBSERVATIONS made on board the Ships ſent upon the late DISCOVERY; ſupported by AFFIDAVITS, which coincides with ſeveral Former Accounts.

Humbly offered to the Conſideration of the LORDS and COMMONS aſſembled in Parliament.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

REASONS

To ſhew, that there is a great PROBABILITY of a

NAVIGABLE PASSAGE to the *Weſtern American Ocean*

THROUGH

HUDSON's STREIGHTS,

and *CHESTERFIELD* INLET.

FROM Mr. *Weſtal*'s Report and Affidavit ſince his Return (who went farther up this Inlet than *Johnſon*, Mate to Captain *Moor*, and Dr. *Thomſon*, who follow'd him in the Schooner, and anchor'd five Leagues ſhort of him) it appears, that it was not above four Leagues wide at the Eaſt Entrance from the Bay, bearing firſt north-weſterly, further in weſterly, and at the upper End ſouth-weſterly; the Water deep to the Shore, but the Lands low, the depth from 20 to 40 and 50 Fathom in the Mid-channel; the Water (as atteſted by thoſe in the Schooner) where they anchor'd one Night, five Leagues, below *Weſ-*

tal's Boat, when he was at the Place where he made his Obſervation, was clear and very ſalt; the Spirings from the Head of the Boat at Anchor being dry'd into a white Salt upon their Shoes in the Morning, and the Streight there was ſix Leagues wide. Five Leagues higher, where *Weſtall* anchor'd and try'd the Tide by a Pole, about 200 Yards from the Shore, the depth was three Fathom, and five Fathom in the Channel; it ſeem'd muddy; and he reported that the Water upon the Surface was brackiſh at High Water, and almoſt freſh at Low Water; the Tide there roſe nine feet, but nearer the Bay as he went up, it flow'd 14 Feet; it was there four Leagues wide, 30 Leagues from the Eaſt Entrance, and continu'd at leaſt that breadth for ſix or ſeven Leagues farther, as far as he could ſee in a clear Day. The Tide there ebb'd to the eaſtward eight Hours each Tide, at the rate of ſix Miles an Hour, then for about two Hours only ſtem'd the Current, and for the laſt two Hours ſet up weſterly at the rate of half a Mile an Hour; and therefore, from its being brackiſh on the Surface, and from the great Current to eaſtward during the Ebb, he apprehended it to come from a River or freſh Inland Lake. The whole Coaſt was ragged and ſtony, no Snow upon the Land, and little or no Ice in the Inlet.

If theſe Obſervations are true, it is neither a River nor freſh Inland Lake, for theſe Reaſons; the Entrance of the Inlet being only four Leagues Wide, and not wider than ſix in the Middle, and four Leagues wide at the fartheſt they went up, continuing ſtill the ſame breadth, at leaſt for ſix or ſeven Leagues farther, where it ebb'd eight Hours, at the rate of ſix Miles an Hour; then for two Hours only ſwell'd and ſtopt the Current; and for the laſt two Hours flow'd weſtward at the rate of half a Mile an Hour; the Tide riſing there nine Feet; yet the

Water

Water was brackiſh, but not freſh on the Surface. This demonſtrates that ſo great a Quantity of Water running ſix Miles an Hour, and four Leagues wide for eight Hours; and flow'd weſtward not two Miles in the laſt two Hours of the Tide; and continuing brackiſh there, and very ſalt five Leagues lower, could not proceed from a freſh Lake or River; for as the Streight was but four Leagues wide at Eaſt Entrance, and not above ſix Leagues wide in the Middle, and 30 Leagues long, a Current of freſh Water four Leagues wide, ſo rapid as to run near 16 Leagues each Ebb, and not one League upon the Flood, in a few Tides muſt have filled the whole Streight with freſh Water; and therefore the Water being ſalt in the Streight, and brackiſh there, muſt have had its Supply from a ſalt Sea or Ocean——: For in the *Thames* and other Rivers where there is a ſtrong Tide, they are freſh for many Miles below the flowing of the Tide, caus'd by the freſh Water's forcing back the ſalt.——

But if that Current proceeded from a Salt Water Tide, through a Streight, it is eaſy to account for the Water's being only brackiſh on its Surface, where it was try'd; though it might be very ſalt below; as it was found upon Trial in *Wager Inlet*; for in thoſe Seas, where the Ice was lately diſſolv'd on the Surface, and the Snow thaw'd from the Land, as freſh Water is ſpecifically lighter than ſalt, it would float upon the ſalt Water in fine calm Weather, until by Storms and blowing Weather it would mix with the ſalt Water below it.——Nor was the Shallowneſs of the Water, nor Muddyneſs of it there, a Reaſon to ſuppoſe it a River; for as it was near the meeting of the two Tides, where the different Streams met, it would occaſion a Bar, as is found at the Mouths of Rivers, and that Bar, would conſiſt of a light Sand or ouzy Mud.——

But

But, on the contrary, ſuppoſing it a Current from a Streight which communicates with the Weſtern Ocean, either through a Salt Water Lake, or a narrow Streight, then all the Obſervations made may be eaſily accounted for; the Tide would flow towards the Middle of the Streight as well from the Weſtern Ocean as from the Eaſt Entrance in *Hudſon*'s *Bay*, and muſt riſe and meet near the Middle, according to the Height and Velocity of each Tide, at the different Ends of the Streight,—and wherever they meet, there muſt be a Swelling and Stop for ſome time, without any Current either way, and then the Ebb in Proportion to the Diſtance from the Place of meeting, muſt be for more or fewer Hours, as is obſerv'd in navigable Rivers, but would be ſtill ſalt or brackiſh. But this alone could not account for ſo many Hours Ebb each Tide, and for the great Quantity of Water and Velocity of the Current upon the Ebb, ſince it ſhould fall equally from the Middle to each End of the Streight, as it was not carry'd up by the Flood, as obſerv'd by Mr. *Weſtal*.

But upon Suppoſition that there is a great Ocean at the Weſt End of ſuch Streight, at much the ſame Diſtance as this Place was from *Hudſon*'s *Bay*, about 30 Leagues, let us conſider, if this will not fully explain all that *Weſtall* obſerv'd. The Ocean being then at the weſt Entrance of the Streight, it may be preſum'd to have as great an Impulſe there; and to raiſe as high a Tide, as our Eaſten Ocean does at the Eaſt Entrance of *Hudſon*'s *Streight*, where it is known to riſe at leaſt 24 Feet.—— But the Tide at the Eaſt Entrance of this Streight in *Hudſon*'s *Bay*, being weaken'd and expanded in the Bay, does not riſe there by Obſervation above 14 Feet—— Conſequently, the Tide from the Weſtern Ocean riſing 24 Feet, muſt be near as high in the Middle

at Half Flood, as the Tide in the Bay is at High Water, and therefore muſt continue diſcharging the Water into the Bay, not only during the whole Ebb of the Bay Tide, but alſo during great Part of the Flood, until near High Water by the Tide from the Bay, which may happen at the ſame time, when it may be half Ebb by the Weſtern Ocean Tide, as the Time of High Water of both Tides may not be at the ſame Time, as they are caus'd by different Oceans, and theſe Oceans are at different Diſtances from each End of the Streight; and this muſt cauſe ſo great an Eaſtern Current into the Bay, which will appear to be Ebb Water into the Bay, as that is lower than the Ocean, though it be from a Flood Tide from the Weſtern Ocean.

This Tide and Current will alſo fully anſwer the confirm'd Accounts, why ſtrong North-weſt Winds raiſe ſuch high Tides in the Weſt Side of the Bay, though it blow off the Coaſt, when at the ſame time ſtrong Eaſterly Winds, which blow the Eaſtern Ocean into *Hudſon's Streight*, don't raiſe ſuch Tides on the Weſt Side of the Bay, though it blows againſt the Coaſt; for if there be the like Currents in *Corbet's* and *Rankin's* Inlets, which were not follow'd, nor ſearch'd; but only a ſmall Tide of Flood obſerv'd at the rate of one Mile an Hour; and the whole ſhould be broken Lands betwixt 62°, 30′, and 64°.—— When there is ſo great a Current in calm fine Weather, how much more muſt be thrown in when there is a Storm at North-weſt? which, added to that thrown in by *Repulſe Bay*, muſt raiſe ſuch high Tides, as have been obſerv'd by Marks upon the Shore on that Coaſt and in the *Welcome*. This will alſo account for the Currents ſetting Ships Southward of their Reckonings upon that Coaſt, and why the Ice is drove from that Coaſt whilſt it

is in great Quantity on the low Beach Coaſt, and to the Eaſtward and Southward in the Bay.

That the Tide from the Ocean on the North-weſt Coaſt of *America*, ſhould be as high, or rather higher, than the Tide on the North-eaſtern Coaſt of *America*, is alſo agreeable to Reaſon and Obſervations, from the Tides and Currents in different Parts of the Globe. The Trade Winds betwixt and near the Tropics, impell the Sea from the Coaſt of *Africa* againſt the Eaſtern Coaſt of *America*; ſo that the Water is higher there than upon the *African* Coaſt. This again by Reflection, and an eddy Current is forc'd out North of *Cuba*, by the *Bahama Streights*, North-eaſterly towards the Coaſt of *Europe*, in more Northerly Latitudes.—— The Trade Wind alſo cauſes an Eddy in the Atmoſphere in the higher Latitudes, towards the Polar Circle; which is the Cauſe of the North-weſt Winds blowing ſo long and violently in thoſe Latitudes. The Winds conſequently lower the Surface of the Ocean on the North-eaſt Coaſt of *America*, by impelling it againſt the Coaſt of *Europe*.—— For the ſame reaſon, the Trade Wind in the *South Sea*, forming an Eddy Wind and Current, impell the Ocean againſt the North-weſt Coaſt of *America*; and conſequently the Surface of the Ocean in thoſe higher Latitudes ought to be higher there, than on the North-eaſt Coaſt without *Hudſon*'s *Streight*; therefore the Tide on the Weſt End of ſuch Streight, as is here ſuppos'd, ought to be higher than at the Eaſt Entrance, even if the Ocean join'd the Eaſt End of the Streight, and conſequently much higher as it is an Inland Sea: And this Difference of the height muſt neceſſarily cauſe ſo rapid a Current Eaſtward into the Bay ſo many Hours each Tide. Thus the Surface of the Ocean without the Streight

of

of *Gibraltar* being higher than the *Mediterranean* within, cauſes a perpetual Current into the *Streights*. This alſo fully accounts why the Ice is forc'd from the North-weſt Coaſt into the Bay, and out of the Eaſt End of *Hudſon*'s *Streights*, as is found by conſtant Obſervations. ——

It is from the like Cauſe, that it is ſo difficult to get to Weſtward by *Cape Horn*, or through *Magellan*'s Streights, when in returning Eaſtward, no ſuch Difficulty is found. The Water in high Southerly Latitudes by its eddy Current and ſtrong eddy Weſterly Winds, being impelled Eaſterly in like manner; and the Tide in theſe Openings in *Hudſon*'s *Bay* and round *Repulſe Bay*, are almoſt parallel to the Tide in *Magellan*'s *Streights* and round *Terra del Fuego*, with this only Difference, that the two Oceans join the two Ends of the *Streight* of *Magellan*; but here an Inland Sea is at the Eaſt End, where the Tide being lower, being much ſpent, cauſes the great Current Eaſtward upon the Ebb for eight Hours, as is found by Experience ——

This Diſcovery and Obſervation alſo perfectly agrees with Admiral *de Fonte*'s Letter to the Viceroy of *Peru*: He ſays in ſailing up *Rio los Keys*, and down the River *Parmentiers*, into, and out of *Lake Belle*, the Tide flow'd 24 Feet at Entrance, it was freſh 20 Leagues higher, but continu'd to riſe and flow for 60 Leagues, to the Entrance of the Lake, where it was from four to ſeven Fathoms deep, and an Hour and Quarter before High Water ſet gently into the Lake. He was five Days in ſailing down the River *Parmentiers* into *Lake Fonte*, down eight Sharps, or falls as he calls them, making altogether 32 Feet, which is four Feet to each Fall, which was cauſed by the Number of Tides; which Sharps upon the Ebb he calls Falls; *Lake Fonte* a ſalt Lake, in which were plenty of Cod and

Ling, lay North-eaſt 160 Leagues, was 60 Leagues broad, and from 20 to 60 Fathom deep. He from thence enter'd *Eſtricho de Ronquillo*, which was 34 Leagues long, two or three broad, and 20 to 28 Fathoms deep; this, he ſays, he paſs'd in 10 Hours, having a ſtout Gale and whole Ebb eaſtward. May not this or *Corbet*'s, or *Rankin*'s Inlet, be Part of that Streight that *de Fonte* paſs'd, as he found the Ebb ran Eaſterly, though he came from the Weſtern Ocean, and as he ſoon after came to the *Boſton* Ship, might it not have been trading in the Bay near *Whalecove?* Here he arrived the 18th of *July*, 1640, when all the Ice was drove from that Coaſt. That this Manuſcript Letter of *de Fonte*, publiſh'd by Mr. *Petivir*, was a genuine *Spaniſh* Mannſcript convey'd to him from *Liſbon*, where he had a Correſpondence with Men of Learning, and his getting it from thence, ſeems very rational, and eaſy to be accounted for. The King of *Spain* was poſſeſs'd of *Portugal* until the Year 1640, when *de Fonte* made his Voyage, and the *Spaniſh American* Ships then came to *Liſbon*, inſtead of *Cales*. The Revolution of *Portugal* happen'd that Year. The Ships coming from *America* that Year, not knowing of the Revolution, were ſeiz'd by the *Portugueſe*, and in one of them this Letter, which not being of Conſequence to the *Portugueſe*, who were then only ſollicitous of ſecuring their Liberty and Independence, was thrown careleſly by; and coming, in Proceſs of Time, into ſome curious Perſon's Hand, it was ſent, or a Copy of it, to Mr. *Petiver* in *England*, and publiſh'd by him in 1707 or 1708.—— Though it has been taken from an incorrect Copy, or careleſly printed; yet, that it was taken from a *Spaniſh* Manuſcript, is almoſt demonſtrable both from the *Hiſpaniciſms* in the Tranſlation, and alſo from the *Spaniſh* Harbours mention'd in it, which can't be found

found in any *Engliſh*, *French*, or *Dutch* Maps, publiſh'd before 1712, ſome Years after printing that Letter. The Port of *Ralea* mention'd in it, is undoubtedly *Realcia*, and is ſo deſcrib'd in moſt Charts; But the Prot of *Saragua* or *Salagua*, and the Iſle of *Chamilly*, as it is printed, are not to be found in any *Engliſh*, *Dutch*, or *French* Maps or Charts, before that publiſh'd of the *South Sea* in 1712, upon the forming the *South Sea* Company; where *Salagua* is noted; but that plainly appears to be taken from the *Spaniſh* Charts taken in the *Acapulco* Ship in 1710, by the *Duke* and *Dutcheſs* Privateers of *Briſtol*, as publiſh'd by *Cook*, where the Port of *Salagua* and the Iſles of *Chametly* are laid down and deſcrib'd in the ſame Latitude as mention'd in *de Fonte*'s Letter; and the ſame Port of *Salagua* is now inſerted in the *Spaniſh* Chart taken by Lord *Anſon* on board the *Manila* Ship; which muſt demonſtrably ſhew, that *de Fonte*'s Letter was genuine, and taken from a *Spaniſh* Manuſcript, otherwiſe they would not have choſe to inſert Ports, unknown in *Engliſh*, *Dutch* and *French* Charts.—— And if the Letter be from a *Spaniſh* Manuſcript, we have no Reaſon to doubt the Truth of the Voyage, as it could not be calculated to ſerve any ſiniſtrous Purpoſe, to impoſe upon the World a falſe ſpurious Account.—— Let us alſo obſerve the Account given by *de Fuca* the *Greek* Pilot, to Mr. *Lock* in *Venice* in 1596, and compare it with theſe Inlets, and *de Fonte*'s Account. Upon hearing of the *Engliſh* Attempts to find out a North-weſt Paſſage, the King of *Spain* order'd the Viceroy of *Mexico* to fit out ſome Ships to ſail round *California* to prevent it, and ſeize ſuch Ships as they ſhould meet in the Paſſage. This *Greek* Pilot was order'd in 1592 to make the Diſcovery, and and in the Latitude of 47° North of *California*, found a Streight, which was 40 Leagues wide at the

Entrance, and grew larger. He ſail'd in it for the moſt Part Northeaſterly, for 20 Days, until he came to the *North Sea*, deſcribing the People he ſaw there, cloathed in Furs and Skins: And having but few Hands, and being afraid of wintering among the Natives, he return'd, thinking to get a Reward for his Diſcovery; but after fair Promiſes for two Years, was ſent to *Spain* for his Reward; and the *Spaniards* then finding the *Engliſh* had given over the Diſcovery, being neglected after long Attendance, he ſtole away to his own Country.——Does not this Account alſo tally with *de Fonte*'s Account of *Lake Fonte*, except that the Admiral miſs'd the great Southern Entrance, by getting into the *Archipelago* of *St. Lazare*, and from thence into the River *Los Reyes*, and ſo into *Lake Belle*, before he got into *Lake Fonte?* and is it not probable that the *Greek* Pilot's Entrance into the *North Sea* or *Hudſon*'s *Bay*, was in the Latitude of 62° 30', as is mention'd in Sir *James Lancaſter*'s remarkable Poſtſcript from the *Cape of Good Hope*, which correſponds exactly with *Corbet's Inlet*, and is not far from *Rankin*'s and *Cheſterfeld*'s *Inlets*; where, in his great Diſtreſs, without Connection with the reſt of his Letter, he ſays, *Nota Bene*, That the Paſſage to *India* is on the North-weſt Side of *America*, in 62½; this was wrote in 1600, ten Years before the Diſcovery of *Hudſon*'s *Streight* and *Bay*; and therefore could not be known from *Europe:* But as Sir *James Lancaſter* was then returning home from the *Molucco* Iſlands, about ſeven or eight Years after *de Fuco* had made that Diſcovery, who had ſail'd from *Acapulco*, and as the *Spaniards* who had ſail'd with him, might have been afterwards employ'd in ſailing from thence to *Manila* and the *Moluccos*, it is highly probable as the Diſcovery had been ſo lately made, as a curious Piece of News, he might have heard from them,

and

and in his Diſtreſs was afraid it might die with him, and therefore mention'd it in his Poſtſcript for the Public Good; but the Company upon his Return having eſtabliſh'd their Trade by the *Cape of Good Hope*, proſecuted it no farther, being content, like other Companies, with their preſent Trade without further Riſque.——

If to this is added the only Attempt made by the *Hudſon's Bay* Company, if it can be ſaid to be properly theirs, as it was againſt their Inclination, but forced upon them by Governor *Knight* one of their Number (after threatning them that he would apply for another Charter, if they would not fit him out for the Diſcovery) when they fitted out two Ships, under the Command of *Barlow* and *Vaughan*, two of them Captains, *Knight* himſelf above 80 Years old, going with them, upon Information he had from the Natives North of *Churchill*, of the Streight, Paſſage, and fine Copper Mine upon it;—— it appears that he expected to find it at *Corbet's Inlet*, near *Piſtoll Bay*; for when *Scrags* was ſent Northward in 1722, to find out what was become of thoſe Ships, he ſaw ſome broken Yards and Blocks floating near *Piſtol Bay*, Eaſtward of *Corbet's Inlet*, and the *Eſkimaux* in Poſſeſſion of Part of the Wreck Marble Iſland; which is a great Preſumption that *Knight* expected the Paſſage and Copper Mine to be thereabouts; and probably one of the Ships might have got into it, or through it, and have been afterwards loſt; for if both had been loſt in the Bay, within 70 Leagues of *Churchil Factory*, it is highly probable ſome of them might have been ſaved, and have got to *Churchill* or to ſome of the Northern *Indians* in amity with the *Engliſh*, who would have inform'd the *Engliſh* at the Factory of their Misfortune.——

There

There being alſo neither Trees nor Woods in this New Inlet, ſhews it to be a Salt Water Paſſage, and no Snow on the Ground and very little Ice in the Inlet; for had it been a large Continent with ſo great a freſh River, there muſt have been great Woods in the Latitude of 64°, ſince there are great Woods at *Archangel* in that Latitude, and in *Lapland* in 70° in the South of *Nova Zembla* and among the *Samoyeids* at the *Oby Jeneſea & Lena* in that Latitude.

Add to this the Whales ſeen at the Eaſt Entrance of all theſe Inlets and the *Welcome*, and the Quantity of Whale Fin traded with the Natives near *Whalecove*, which had been taken that Seaſon early in *June*, which could only be there from the Weſtern Ocean; ſo that from ſo many Accounts coinciding to prove this to be a Streight, and not an Inland Lake or River, I may rationally conclude, that through theſe Openings the ſo much deſir'd Paſſage may be found.

HENRY

HENRY ELLIS of *Lawrence Lane, Cheapſide, London*, Gentleman, and late Agent for the *North-weſt Committee* on an Expedition for the Diſcovery of a North-weſt Paſſage through *Hudſon's Bay* to the Weſtern and Southern Ocean of *America*, maketh Oath, and ſaith, That he this Deponent went out on board the *Dobbs Galley* in *May*, 1746, upon an Expedition for the Diſcovery of the ſaid Paſſage; and that this Deponent's chief Buſineſs was to aſſiſt with his Obſervations and Endeavours to promote and perfect the ſame Diſcovery. And this Deponent further ſaith, That whilſt the ſaid Ship was ſo employ'd, he, this Deponent, landed at the ſeveral Places hereafter mention'd, where he aſſiſted in making Trials of the Circumſtances attending the Tides (that is to ſay) at *Knight's Iſland* in Latitude 62° North, at *Nevil's Bay* in 62°, 12 North; to the Weſtward of *Whale Cove* in Latitude 62° 27; at *Corbet's* Inlet in 62° 47; at *Marble Iſland* in 62°, 55; at *Cape Fry* in 64°, 32; at an Iſland in about Latitude 65° 6; at *Wager's Bay* above three Degrees of Longitude, by Computation farther Weſtward than any of Captain *Middleton's* People, or any other *Europeans* that this Deponent ever heard of, had been before; at *Douglas Harbour* in the ſame Bay, and ſeveral other Places, as alſo on the Eaſt Side of the *Welcome* near *Cape Veteran*. And upon the whole of theſe Trials, this Deponent found the following Facts appear, *viz.* That the Flood Tide came from the Northward the Courſe of the Coaſt; and that the time of Full Sea or High Water at *Cape Fry*

Fry was ſooner than at *Knight*'s *Iſland*, though the former is much farther to the Northward: That North-weſt Winds make the higheſt Tides conſiderably on the Weſt Coaſt of *Hudſon*'s *Bay*: That the Water roſe higher to the Northwards than at the Place this Deponant had try'd it to the Southward, by ſeveral Feet: And that the Water was ſalt and very tranſparent; ſo that the Bottom might be ſeen at the Depth of 11 Fathoms, or 66 Feet: That this Deponent ſaw many black Whales to the Northward of 63, but none to the Southward of that Latitude upon the Weſtern Coaſt of *Hudſon*'s *Bay*: That the Times of Ebbing and flowing of the Tides in the *Welcome* were as regular as all Ocean Tides uſually are. And this Deponent ſaith, that all theſe Circumſtances and the Conſequences ariſing therefrom, do in this Deponent's Judgment, and as he verily believes, eſtabliſh a very ſtrong Probability of there being a Paſſage from *Hudſon*'s *Bay* into ſome other Ocean to the Weſtward of the ſaid Bay. But in order to explain the Foundation of ſuch this Deponent's Judgment and Belief, this Deponent thinks it neceſſary to make the following Obſervations relative thereto, which, to Perſons concern'd in Sea-Affairs, are well known to be founded in Fact.—— And firſt, it is generally agreed, That there are no Tide nor any Swelling of the Water upon the Shores in Inland Seas (ſuch as the *Mediterranean*, *Baltick* and *Caſpian*) except only very inconſiderable ones, and thoſe occaſion'd merely by particular Winds, and not by the Attraction or Influence of other Bodies, which is allow'd to be the chief or only Cauſe of Ocean Tides.—— Secondly, It is well known that when the Wind blows with the Flood Tide, it accelerates its Motion, and conſequently raiſes the Water higher upon any Coaſt that oppoſes it, and in all Streights or Inlets into

which

which it flows. And on the other hand, when the Wind oppoſes its Current, it leſſens its Velocity and keeps out the Water proportionable in this Caſe as it forces it in the other.—— And this Deponent ſaith, that the Conſequences appearing to him to ariſe from theſe two indiſputable Facts (as this Deponent apprehends and believes the ſame to be) are, firſt, That if *Hudſon*'s *Bay* were an Inland Sea, and had no other Supply of Water than what it receives through *Hudſon*'s *Streights* (which, according to the Trial made by Captain *Fox*, is ſpent at *Cary*'s *Swan*'s *Neſt*, where the Tides roſe but ſix Feet when he try'd the ſame, as appears by the Journal publiſh'd by him) there would be no higher Tides or Currents in *Hudſon*'s *Bay* than what are found in the Inland Seas abovementioned, or at moſt, not one half ſo high as upon this Deponent's Trial thereof, as aforeſaid, they appear'd to be; for this Deponent cannot conceive how it is poſſible that a Tide riſing but ſix Feet at *Cary*'s *Swan*'s *Neſt*, ſhould, after flowing ſome hundred Miles further from the Place from whence the Eaſtern Tide is ſuppos'd to come, riſe to the height of 17 Feet, as it was found to do near *Cape Dobbs*, unleſs it met with another Tide from the Northward or Weſtward.——— And, Secondly, North-weſt Winds producing the higheſt Tides in *Hudſon*'s *Bay*, makes it evident to this Deponent, that the extraordinary Increaſe of Water occaſion'd thereby, is brought from another Ocean lying to the Weſtward of the ſaid Bay, and cannot come from the *Atlantic Ocean*, as thoſe Winds would in ſuch Caſe oppoſe it,—— and which alſo may be further illuſtrated and confirm'd by a parallel Inſtance ariſing on the Eaſtern Coaſt of *England*, where North-weſt Winds make greater Tides than Eaſterly Winds do; and (as has been generally agreed) from the ſame Cauſe, *to wit*, that the great Ocean from

whence the Tides there are propagated, lies to the Weſtward. And this Deponent further ſaith, That North-weſterly Winds being obſerv'd to cauſe the higheſt Tides in *Hudſon's Bay*, and the Flood coming from the Northward, being too ſtrong Circumſtances in favour of a North-weſt Paſſage, they were inſerted in an Act of Council in *Auguſt* laſt at *Douglas* Harbour in *Wager Bay*, and witneſs'd by the principal Officers of the *Dobbs* and *California*, who were Members of the ſaid Council, as Facts that were unanimouſly allow'd to be true. And this Deponent believes, that if there is ſuch a Paſſage, it muſt be ſhort: Which Concluſion he draws from the Height, Regularity and Rapidity of the Tides in the *Welcome*: And that it is paſſable from its being obſerv'd, That there is leſs Ice in the *Welcome* to the Northward in 65° than there is in the Southern Part of the Bay in 52 or 53° in the latter End of the Summer. And though the Seaſon for purſuing ſuch Paſſage is but ſhort, yet it is conſiderably lengthen'd by there being no Night in thoſe Northern Latitudes about that time of the Year. And this Deponent ſaith, That he found the time of High Water to happen ſooner at *Cape Fry* than at *Knight's Iſland*; which this Deponent apprehends clearly ſhews, that the former (though farther Northward) was nearer than the latter to the Ocean from whence the Tide came. And this Deponent ſaith, that he was inform'd by the Officer that diſcover'd the Opening call'd *Cheſterfield Inlet*, that he found the Stream of the Ebb there run from the Weſtward for eight Hours, at the rate of ſix Miles an Hour; and that the Flood ran up but at the rate of two Miles an Hour: And that at Low Water at the Diſtance of above 30 Leagues from the Entrance, the Water, though freſher than that of the Ocean, had yet a ſtrong Degree of Saltneſs; from whence this Deponent

ponent infers a Probability of there being a Thoroughfare, ſince if there were not, the Water ought to be perfectly freſh: For that as no Salt Water went up for more than two Hours on the Flood, none ſhould have come down after two Hours Ebb, even if the Ebb had been as long as the Flood; but it appears to have been much ſwifter. And this Deponent ſaith, That though it is certain that a Flood Tide from the Weſtward in the ſaid Inlet would have inconteſtibly prov'd there being a Paſſage through the ſame to the Weſtern Ocean; yet a Flood Tide from the Eaſtward does not, as this Deponent apprehends, prove the contrary; as is evident in the Inſtance of the *Magellanic Streight*, where, according to the accurate Account given by Sir *John Narborough*, the Tide flows half way up that Streight from the Eaſtward, and is then met by another Flood from the *Weſtern* or *Pacific Ocean*.—— And this Deponent further ſaith, that he never heard that the Openings call'd *Rankin*'s and *Cheſterfield*'s Inlets were ever ſearch'd by any Perſon in the *Hudſon*'s *Bay* Company's Service, or any other Perſon whomſoever before the Year 1747, when the ſame were enter'd and examin'd by the Officers belonging to the *Dobbs Galley* and *Callifornia*.—— And that he this Deponent never ſaw, or could hear, of any correct Chart or Search having been made of the Parts to the Northward of Latitude of 62°, 30; by any of the *Hudſon*'s *Bay* Company's Servants.

JEREMIAH WESTALL of *Great Yarmouth* in the County of *Norfolk*, Mariner, maketh Oath, and ſaith, That two Ships having in the Year 1746 been fitted out at the Expence of ſeveral Merchants of the City of *London* and others, to go upon an Expedition in ſearch of a North-weſt Paſſage by *Hudſon's Streights* into the Weſtern and Southern Ocean of *America*; he this Deponent, in the Month of *May* 1746, went on the ſaid Expedition in Quality of Mate on board one of the ſaid Ships, *viz.* the Ship call'd the *California*. —— And this Deponent ſaith, That the ſaid Ship in *June* 1747, ſail'd from her Winter Quarters in *Haye's River* in *Hudſon's Bay* upon the ſaid Diſcovery.—— And in *July* following this Deponent was diſpatch'd in the Ship's Long-boat to ſearch the Opening now call'd *Rankin's Inlet*.—— And this Deponent ſaith, he ſail'd in the ſaid Long-boat about 15 Leagues up the ſaid Opening.—— And ſo far as this Deponent went, the ſaid Opening appear'd to be between five and ſix Leagues wide, interſpers'd with Iſlands.—— And at the utmoſt Extent that this Deponent went in the ſaid Opening, this Deponent could not diſcern any End or Termination thereof, though the Day was clear, and this Deponent could ſee for ſix or eight Leagues further.—— And thereupon this Deponent return'd back and made a Report accordingly to the Captain of the ſaid Ship.—— And this Deponent further ſaith, that afterwards, *to wit*, about the Middle of the ſaid Month of *July* 1747, this Deponent went Northwards in the ſaid Long-boat

in

in order to make further Diſcoveries.—— And in Latitude 64°, this Deponent diſcover'd a large opening call'd *Cheſterfield*'s *Inlet*; up which this Deponent ſail'd about thirty Leagues;—— where this Deponent found the ſaid Opening to be about four Leagues wide; and to the Weſtward it ſeem'd ſtill to increaſe in Width.—— And at the Extent of the ſaid thirty Leagues up the ſaid Inlet, this Deponent found the Water ſalt, though not in the ſame Degree as the Ocean;—— which this Deponent believes was occaſion'd by the Snow and Ice melting at that Seaſon of the Year and the freſh water lying on the Surface;—— which is an Effect produc'd by the ſame Cauſe in the *Baltic Sea* in the Month of *June*.—— And this Deponent alſo found the Stream of the Ebb to come from the Weſtward at the rate of five or ſix Miles an Hour.—— And in that manner the ſaid Stream ran down the Eaſtward for about eight Hours.—— And for about two Hours more the Water ſtood ſtill while it ſwelled upon the Shore.—— And for about two Hours more a gentle Current ran up to the Weſtward at the rate of about half a Mile an Hour.—— And afterwards the Current from the Weſtward ran with the ſame Violence, and in the ſame manner as before.—— And this Deponent ſaith, that at the Extent of the ſaid thirty Leagues up the ſaid Opening call'd *Cheſterfield Inlet*, this Deponent could not obſerve any Termination thereof, although the Day was perfectly clear, and this Deponent could ſee for ſix or eight Leagues farther.—— And this Deponent ſaith, that neither of the ſaid Openings was ever enter'd or diſcover'd by the *Hudſon*'s *Bay* Company, or any of their Agents, or by any other Perſon, as this Deponent verily believes, before this Deponent's Diſcovery thereof as aforeſaid.—— And this Deponent further ſaith, that in all the Places where this Deponent try'd the Tides in *Hudſon*'s *Bay* (which he often

often did in the Courſe of the ſaid Expedition) this Deponent found the main Flood Tide to come from the Northward ;——from whence this Deponent is ſtrongly induc'd to believe, that there is a Northweſt Paſſage to the Weſtern Ocean of *America.*—— And this Deponent further ſaith, that in the Month of *Auguſt* 1746, it being found neceſſary to ſhelter the ſaid Ships during the Winter Seaſon in ſome Part of *Hudſon*'s *Bay*, in order the more effectually to proſecute the Diſcovery the next Seaſon, *Hay*'s *River* was choſe for that Purpoſe, where the ſaid *Hudſon*'s *Bay* Company had a Settlement call'd *York Fort.*——And this Deponent ſaith, that upon the ſaid Ships attempting to enter the ſaid River, one of the ſaid Ships (*to wit*, the *Dobbs Galley*) ran a-ground upon the Shoals at the Entrance thereof.—— And whilſt the ſaid Ship was in this dangerous Situation, and the other Ship (*to wit*, the *California*) not in Safety, the Governor of *York Fort* aforeſaid, in order the more effectually to diſtreſs the ſaid Ships, ſent his Boat and Men to cut down the Beacon, and remove ſuch other Marks as might have afforded any Aſſiſtance in relieving the Ships from their then dangerous Condition.—— And this they perſiſted to do notwithſtanding they were call'd out to whilſt they were cutting down the ſaid Beacon and other Marks of Pilotage, and deſir'd to deſiſt.—— And this Deponent further ſaith, that the People who came in the ſaid Boat acknowledg'd that the ſaid Governor gave them Orders for what they did as aforeſaid ; and that the ſaid Governor before the giving of ſuch Orders, knew that the ſaid Ships were *Engliſh* Ships, and that they came upon the ſaid Diſcovery. —— And this Deponent further ſaith, that upon many other Occaſions the ſaid Governor, or the People at the ſaid Fort by his Order, did many ill Offices, with a View, as this Deponent believes, to obſtruct and diſcourage the Commanders

of the ſaid Ships in their Purſuit of the ſaid Diſcovery.—— And this Deponent further ſaith, that in the Courſe of the Proſecution of the ſaid Diſcovery, this Deponent, in the Latitude 62° and half, and 65° North, ſaw many black Whales, and of the Whalebone kind, but none of the ſaid black Whales in the Southern Part of *Hudſon*'s *Bay*.—— And the further Advance was made to the Northward, the larger Quantity of Black Whales were ſeen.

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